



## **H.R. 2720, The Great Lakes Restoration Financing Act**

Building on the foundation of President Bush's "Great Lakes Strategy 2002," HR 2720, the Great Lakes Restoration Financing Act (GLRF), is a bipartisan approach to Great Lakes restoration with the support of 106 members of the United States House of Representatives. Both the GLRF and similar Senate legislation (S.1398) have been endorsed by all eight governors of the Great Lakes states and the Great Lakes Cities Initiative, a consortium of mayors from the cities bordering the Lakes. The bill also has the support of the Great Lakes Commission and more than 40 organizations including, the Lake Michigan Federation, the National Marine Manufacturers, Ducks Unlimited and the Lake Carriers Association.

Encompassing 95 percent of the United States surface freshwater, and more than 20 percent of the global supply, the Great Lakes are a national treasure. They provide drinking water to 28 million Americans, recreational use of the Lakes is a \$6 billion industry, and more than 150,000 jobs can be attributed to the cargo shipped through the Great Lakes System. Despite their importance, America has neglected this treasure and today the Lakes face myriad threats. A recent EPA report, for instance, noted that while there were a few positive signs, the Great Lakes were mostly in poor condition. More evidence of their decline can be seen in the record 919 beach closings on Lake Michigan in 2002, the more than 1,800 fish consumption advisories, and studies indicating that 96 percent of shoreline in the region is polluted.

While \$7 billion is being spent to clean up the Chesapeake Bay, \$8 billion to save the Everglades, and \$2 billion to restore San Francisco Bay, the Great Lakes have never been able to achieve the same level of commitment. By providing states with \$4 billion over five years, the GLRF will begin the process of reversing centuries of damage. Awarded as block grants, each of the Great Lakes states will be able to use the money to combat invasive species, urban and agricultural runoff, and toxic sediments, as well as provide habitat restoration. Second, the GLRF would create an advisory board tasked with developing a comprehensive Lakes management plan and coordinating the restoration efforts of state, local, and federal entities. Third, the GLRF would provide funding to establish proper indicators and monitoring of water quality. Importantly, a GAO report released in 2003, identified lack of funding, coordination, and indicators as the three obstacles to effective restoration. The GLRF addresses all three concerns.

The Great Lakes are a national treasure worthy of a national commitment. They are home to millions of Americans, and vital to the \$3.05 trillion economy of the Great Lakes states. A recent Joyce Foundation poll found that 96% of residents in the Great Lakes region think we should do more to help the Lakes. Today, 121 members of the House and Senate agree and are working with governors, mayors, and other interested parties to honor their pledge to restore the Great Lakes.

## **Representatives (106): 61 Democrats, 44 Republicans, 1 Independent**

Reynolds (R-NY), Ackerman (D-NY), Baldwin (D-WI), Bishop (D-NY), Blumenauer (D-OR), Boehlert (R-NY), Brady (D-PA), Brown (D-OH), Burton (R-IN), Camp (R-MI), Carson (D-IN), Case (D-HI), Chocoma (R-IN), Conyers (D-MI), Crowley (D-NY), Davis (D-IL), Dingell (D-MI), Doggett (D-TX), Doyle (D-PA), Ehlers (R-MI), Engel (D-NY), English (R-PA), Evans (D-IL), Fattah (D-PA), Frank (D-MA), Frost (D-TX), Gerlach (R-PA), Gillmor (R-OH), Green (R-WI), Greenwood (R-PA), Grijalva (D-AZ), Gutierrez (D-IL), Gutknecht (R-MN), Hart (R-PA), Hill (D-IN), Hinchey (D-NY), Hoeffel (D-PA), Hoekstra (R-MI), Holden (D-PA), Houghton (R-NY), Israel (D-NY), Jackson (D-IL), Johnson (R-IL), Jones (D-OH), Kanjorski (D-PA), Kaptur (D-OH), Kelly (R-NY), Kennedy (R-MN), Kildee (D-MI), Kilpatrick (D-MI), Kind (D-WI), King (R-NY), Kirk (R-IL), Kleczka (D-WI), Kline (R-MN), Kucinich (D-OH), LaHood (R-IL), LaTourette (R-OH), Levin (D-MI), Lipinski (D-IL), Lowey (D-NY), Maloney (D-NY), Manzullo (R-IL), McCarthy (D-NY), McCollum (D-MN), McCotter (R-MI), McHugh (R-NY), McNulty (D-NY), McIntyre (D-NC), Meeks (D-NY), Murphy (R-PA), Murtha (D-PA), Nadler (D-NY), Ney (R-OH), Norton (D-DC), Owens (D-NY), Oxley (R-OH), Payne (D-NJ), Peterson (D-MN), Petri (R-WI), Portman (R-OH), Quinn (R-NY), Ramstad (R-MN), Rangel (D-NY), Regula (R-OH), Rogers (R-MI), Rush (D-IL), Ryan (R-WI), Ryan (D-OH), Sabo (D-MN), Sanders (I-VT), Schakowsky (D-IL), Sensenbrenner (R-WI), Serrano (D-NY), Shimkus (R-IL), Slaughter (D-NY), Souder (R-IN), Strickland (D-OH), Stupak (D-MI), Sweeney (R-NY), Tiberi (R-OH), Towns (D-NY), Upton (R-MI), Walsh (R-NY), Weldon (R-PA), Weiner (D-NY)

## **Senators (15): 9 Democrats, 6 Republicans**

DeWine (R-OH), Levin (D-MI), Clinton (D-NY), Bayh (D-IN), Coleman (R-MN), Dayton (D-MN), Durbin (D-IL), Fitzgerald (R-IL), Kerry (D-MA), Kohl (D-WI), Lugar (R-IN), Schumer (D-NY), Specter (R-PA), Stabenow (D-MI), Voinovich (R-OH)

## **Governors (8): 5 Democrats, 3 Republicans**

Taft (R-OH), Blagojevich (D-IL), Doyle (D-WI), Granholm (D-MI), Kernan (D-IN), Pataki (R-NY), Pawlenty (R-MN), Rendell (D-PA)

## **Mayors (40)**

Daley (Chicago, IL), Richard (Becancour, Quebec), Masiello (Buffalo, NY), Campbell (Cleveland, OH), Kilpatrick (Detroit, MI), Filippi (Erie, PA), Morton (Evanston, IL), Redekop (Fort Erie, Ont.), King (Gary, IN), Shewfelt (Goderich, Ont.), Dedelow (Hammond, IN), Pierce (Highland Park, IL), Turner (Kingston, Ont.), Crawford (Manitowoc, WI), Richardson (Marathon, Ont.), Irby (Marquette, MI), Norquist (Milwaukee, WI), Elia (Niagara Falls, NY), Burroughs (Niagara on the Lake, Ont.), Knight (Parry Sound, Ont.), Olson (Portage, IN), Becker (Racine, WI), Johnson (Rochester, NY), Rigby (St. Catharines, Ont.), Bates (Sainte Catherine, Quebec), Lapointe (Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, Quebec), Rowswell (Sault St. Marie, Ont.), Crocker-MacMillan (Sturgeon Bay, WI), Ross (Superior, WI), Ford (Toledo, OH), Boschoff (Thunder Bay, Ont.), Dodd (Traverse City, MI), Davis (Vermillion, OH), DePre (Ville de la Prairie, Quebec), Bercik (Whiting, IN), Earl (Wilmette, IL), Knuteson (Windpoint, WI), Hurst (Windsor, Ont.), Harrison (Zion, IL)

## **Organizations (42)**

American Fisheries Society, American Fly Casting Association, Chicago Yachting Club, Citizen's Action Illinois, Citizens Environmental Research Institute, Council of Great Lakes Governors, Ducks Unlimited, Environmental Advocates, Environmental Law and Policy Center, Fish USA - PA Steelhead Association, Friends of the Marine Community, Great Lakes Cities Initiative, Great Lakes Research – SUNY, Great Lakes United, Illinois Public Interest Research Group, Institute for Agriculture & Trade Policy, Izaak Walton League, The Joyce Foundation, Lake Carriers Association, Lake Superior Alliance, LakeVision, Lake Michigan Federation, League of Conservation Voters, League of Women Voters, Marine Trades Association of WNY, Michigan Steelhead & Salmon Fisherman's Association, National Audubon Society of NY, National Marine Manufacturers Association, National Wildlife Federation, Northeast Midwest Institute, The Nature Conservancy, Ohio Care; Concerned Citizens Network, Ohio Environmental Council, State PIRGs, Salmon Unlimited of IL, Save the River, Inc., St. Lawrence Aquarium and Ecological Center, Thousand Island Land Trust, University of Buffalo - Great Lakes Program, John G. Shedd Aquarium, Sierra Club, US PIRG